Remarks

New Claims

New claims have been added to vary the scope of the claims and are fully supported by the specification. For example, teachings regarding the independent movement of rudder bodies and rudder members and the opposite rotation of rudder bodies are found in paragraphs [0027-0029] and Figures 9-10.

The Rejection of Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-8, 11-15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,098,561 (Forthmann).

Anticipation requires that all of the elements of the claim be taught within the four corners of a single reference.

A. Applicants respectfully submit that Forthmann does not teach all the elements of amended Claim 1. Forthmann does not teach mounting first and second rudder bodies on either side of a centerline parallel with a keel of said vessel. Forthmann teaches a servo-pendulum rudder and an auxiliary rudder mounted in line with respect to a centerline of the vessel.

Forthmann does not teach rotating first and second rudder bodies around respective first axes and respective rudder members around respective second axes using at least one rotating means. Forthmann teaches a tandem consisting of a servo-pendulum rudder and an auxiliary rudder. The servo-pendulum rudder is rotated by positioning device 30 and the auxiliary rudder 20 is free to rotate, col. 4, lines 47-49, that is, not rotated by at least one rotating means.

Forthmann does not teach rotating first and second rudder bodies and at least one first and second rudder member to steer a vessel and control motion of the vessel. Forthmann teaches rotating a single servo-pendulum rudder for coarse correction steering of a sailboat operating under a fixed wind direction and is silent regarding ride control of the boat.

B. Regarding amended Claim 4, assuming *arguendo* that the shaft of Forthmann is a rudder body and the rudder of Forthmann is a rudder member, Forthmann cannot teach the independent rotation of a rudder body and a rudder member by at least one rotating means, since the shaft and rudder of Forthmann are formed into a single unit and are not free to move with respect to each other. For example, in Figure 1, Forthmann clearly shows that any time shaft 11 is moved, rudder 13 also is moved and vice versa. That is, if shaft 11 is rotated about "R," rudder 13 must necessarily also rotate about "R." Similarly, any time rudder 13 is moved about "P," shaft 11 also must move about "P." Alternately, shaft 11 and rudder 13 are linked together through drive connection 40 such that movement by positioning device 30 causing a simultaneous movement of the shaft/rudder about "R" and "P." As noted above for Claim 1, Forthmann's auxiliary rudder is not rotated by at least one rotatin means.

C. Applicants respectfully submit that Forthmann does not teach all the elements of amended Claim 11. An noted above, Forthmann does not teach first and second rudder bodies arranged to be rotated around respective first axis and respective rudder members arranged to be rotated around respective second axis using at least one rotating means.

Forthmann does not teach first and second rudder bodies arranged to be rotated independently of each other by at least one rotating means. For example, assuming *arguendo* that the shaft of Forthmann is a rudder body, in Figure 1, Forthmann clearly teaches that the movement of shaft 11 is linked to drive connection 40 and the shaft for the auxiliary rudder is free to rotate. That is, the auxiliary rudder is not connected to a rotating means.

As noted above, Forthmann does not teach first and second rudder bodies and at least one first and second rudder member arranged to be rotated so as to steer a vessel and control motion of the vessel.

D. Applicants respectfully submit that Forthmann does not teach all the elements of amended Claim 18. An noted above, Forthmann does not teach: first and second rudder bodies mounted on either side of a centerline parallel with a keel of said vessel; first and second rudder bodies arranged to be rotated around respective first axis and respective rudder members arranged to be rotated around respective second axis using at least one rotating means; and first

and second rudder bodies and at least one first and second rudder member arranged to be rotated so as to steer a vessel and control motion of the vessel.

For all the reasons stated above, Forthmann does not teach all the elements of amended Claims 1, 4, 11, and 18. Therefore, Claims 1, 4, 11, and 18 are patentable over Forthmann and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn. Amended Claims 2 and 3, dependent from Claim 1, also are patentable over Forthmann. Amended Claims 5-8, dependent from Claim 4, also are patentable over Forthmann. Amended Claims 12-15, dependent from Claim 11, also are patentable over Forthmann.

The Objection of Claims 9, 10, 16, 17, and 19 as Being Dependent Upon a Rejected Base Claim

Claims 9, 10, 16, 17, and 19 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but the Examiner indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claims 4, 11, and 18 from which Claims 9 and 10, Claims 16 and 17, and Claim 19, respectively, depend, to overcome the anticipation rejection of Claims 4, 11, and 18 under Forthmann. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 9, 10, 16, 17, and 19 are no longer dependent upon a rejected base claim and the Examiner is requested to withdraw the objection to these claims.

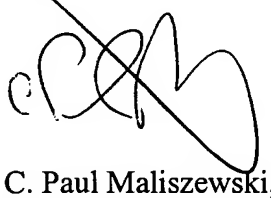
New Claims 20-45

New Claims 20-27 depend from amended Claim 1. Amended Claim 1 is patentable over the cited prior art. Therefore, new Claims 20-27 also are patentable over the cited prior art. New Claim 28 depends from amended Claim 4. Amended Claim 4 is patentable over the cited prior art. Therefore, new Claim 28 also is patentable over the cited prior art. New Claims 29-33 depend from amended Claim 11. Amended Claim 11 is patentable over the cited prior art. Therefore, new Claims 29-33 also are patentable over the cited prior art. New Claims 34-45 depend from amended Claim 18. Amended Claim 18 is patentable over the cited prior art. Therefore, new Claims 34-45 also are patentable over the cited prior art.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, which action is courteously requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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